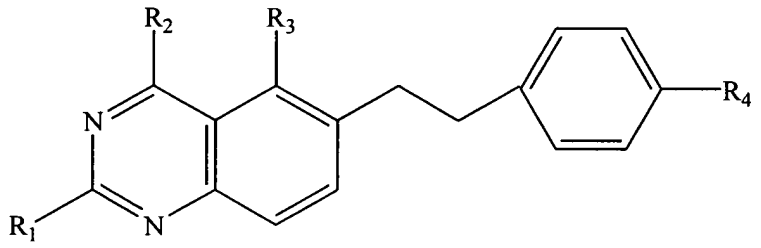
Amendment to the Abstract of the Disclosure

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

~~A process for synthesizing antifolate compounds is disclosed. The process includes cyclization of a readily available starting reagent, followed by one or more coupling steps to produce compounds that mimic folic acid. The compounds synthesized have commercial use as drugs in oncology, inflammatory disease, and other medical fields.~~

The invention claimed herein relates to an improvement in a process for synthesizing a compound of formula Ib:

(Ib)



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each individually amino or N-alkyl substituted amino; hydroxy; alkoxy; keto; lower alkyl; or a nitrogen or oxygen protecting group;

R_3 is hydrogen; hydroxy; alkoxy; trifluoromethyl alkoxy; halo; sulfhydryl or alkylthio;

R_4 is -C(O)-X;

X is hydroxy; alkoxy; or an amino acid residue;

in which process a 2-amino-5-nitro-benzonitrile starting reagent is cyclized to form 2,4-diamino-6-nitro-quinazoline, which is converted to 2,4,6-triamino-quinazoline, which is converted to 2,4-diamino-6-cyano-quinazoline, which is converted to 2,4-diamino-6-formyl-quinazoline;

in which the improvement includes:

reacting an R_4-*p*-benzoic acid alkylene moiety with triethyl phosphite to form a 4-R_4-carbonyloxyalkyl-phenyl-alkyldiethylphosphite; and

reacting the 2,4-diamino-6-formyl-quinazoline with the 4-R_4-carbonyloxyalkyl-phenyl-alkyldiethylphosphite to form the compound of formula Ib.